SignSHOP

Program Operation Manual

A program designed for use with the
Coleco ADAM Family Computer System.

Copyright Notice

Disclaimer Notice

Warranty Notice

The enclosed program is designed to operate using **revision 79** SmartBASIC™ and a **revision 80** ADAM™ memory console. The enclosed program **Will Not** operate properly without having the correct revisions of SmartBASIC™ and the ADAM™ memory console.

To know what revision of SmartBASIC™ you have, load SmartBASIC™ into memory and type **print peek(260)** at the ready prompt and press **RETURN**. The revision number **79** should then appear. To know what revision ADAM™ memory console you have, turn your ADAM™ on and press the **CONTROL** key and the **R** key simultaneously while in the electronic typewriter mode. The revision number **R80** should then appear below the Roman Numeral **IV** at the bottom of the screen.

If the revisions that you own are not correct and the enclosed software does not operate properly please contact Coleco™ Industries. **Do Not** immediately assume that the enclosed program is defective.

This product was purchased **AS IS** and the expressed warranty will **ONLY** cover the following defective problems for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase: **Data Pack / Disk mechanical failure, I/O ERRORS, unreadable data due to recording failure.**

VALID defective Data Packs or Disks **should be returned to the following address** for immediate repair or replacement (please include your return address as well as the nature of the problem).

Parallel/Strategic Warranty Support
P.O. Box 8185
Turnersville, NJ 08012

Please **DO NOT** send any products directly to Strategic Software's headquarters, as this will **DELAY** your replacement. If you do require warranty support, Strategic Software **MUST** have the enclosed Product Registration Card on file. Please send it in immediately.

Table of Contents

Getting Started

You have just purchased a product that will allow you to custom design and print a number of different items in just a few easy steps. SignSHOP can generate signs, posters, letterheads, greeting cards, banners, and much more.

In order to use SignSHOP, you must load it into your ADAM's memory properly. First load SmartBASIC™, and then insert the SignSHOP program data pack. When the READY prompt appears type the following and press [RETURN] when finished:

run signshop,d1

After a few moments the copyright notice will appear while the main program loads into memory. Once SignSHOP has been completely loaded the main function menu will appear. This menu consists of 6 options that control every function of the SignSHOP program.

Designing and Printing a Sign or Notice

In order to design and print a sign or notice select option 1 from the main function menu. SignSHOP will then ask you if a picture will be used within this sign. Pictures are stored as files on data packs or disks. Ten preformatted pictures are provided on the SignSHOP program data pack. Select option 1 if no picture will be placed within the sign, option 2 if the picture that you would like to use is stored on a data pack, or option 3 if the picture is stored on a disk. You must insert the correct media before selecting either option 2 or 3.

If you decided to use a picture, the screen will clear and the contents of the selected disk or data pack will appear on the screen. SignSHOP will then ask you to enter the name of the desired picture file. Enter this name and press [RETURN]. The screen will clear and the drive will activate while SignSHOP loads your picture file into memory.

The following is a list of picture files that are contained on the SignSHOP program data pack

notes	heart
stork	house
tree	cake
cross	santa
giftbox	jstar

After picture selection has been completed, you will be ready to design the layout of your sign. SignSHOP will display the following formatting message on your screen:

L:1 F:_

SignSHOP is asking you what the Format of Line 1 in your sign will be. The L represents the current line number. The two, line formats offered are Text or Picture. If this line will contain text, enter a T and press [RETURN]

If this line will contain a picture enter a P and press [RETURN] If you had entered a T your screen line would look like this:

L:1 F:T S:_

SignSHOP is now asking you to enter a Style number. Two styles are included with SignSHOP. These are Style 1 and Style 2. Style 1 is a small typeface and style 2 is a large bold typeface. Enter a 1 or 2 and press [RETURN]. If you had entered style 2 your screen line should then look like this:

L:1 F:T S:2 P:_

SignSHOP is now asking you to enter a line Position for the text. This is the position that the text will be printed on that line of your sign. Three positions are offered. The are Left, Right, and Center. Enter L, R, or C and press [RETURN]. If you had entered C, your screen line should look like this:

L:1 F:T S:2 P:C |_

SignSHOP is now waiting for you to enter the text that will appear on that line of your sign. The text that you see on your screen is only used as a reference and will not appear that way on paper. Style 1 allows you to enter 12 characters, and style 2 allows you to enter 8 characters. Any alphabetic character, numeric character , as well as most symbols may be entered. Enter this line of text and press [RETURN]. SignSHOP will then allow you to enter the next line of formatting information for your sign.

A line containing a picture should look something like this:

L:1 F:P S: P:C |[P]

The line positioning commands work the same way for a picture. A picture is represented by a capital P with brackets around it. You may only use one picture file per sign. However, it may be placed on as many lines as you wish. The style question is skipped since the style only refers to text.

When you have finished entering all line information for your sign press [RETURN] and SignSHOP will display the next highest line number. Instead of entering information for this line, simply press [RETURN] when asked for the desired format.

SignSHOP will then ask you to enter the line number that you wish to edit. If there is an incorrect line that you have entered and wish to re-enter it, enter the appropriate line number and press [RETURN]. Re-enter the line and press [RETURN] when finished. SignSHOP will again ask if there is a line that you wish to edit. If all line information is correct enter C to continue and press [RETURN]. If you would like to add additional lines enter A and press [RETURN] If you would like to return to the picture file options, enter B to go back.

The amount of information that may be placed on a sign depends on the size of the text styles chosen and the picture files used. For example, more lines of style 1 may be placed in a sign since it is smaller then the large style 2. If you try and enter line information when there is not enough room for it to be printed, SignSHOP will display the message:

** NOT ENOUGH ROOM **

It will then allow you to re-enter that line with different size information which may then fit. Or, if you try and add a line when there is not enough room, SignSHOP will display the same message.

When you have finished designing your sign's layout and have entered a C to continue, SignSHOP will ask you to choose a print quality for your sign. Press 1 for standard quality print, enter 2 for high print quality (darker print). SignSHOP will then ask you to load your printer with paper, and to press [RETURN] when ready. Make sure the print-head starts at the top of the page. Printing should then start immediately after that and your creation should begin to appear.

You will notice that your sign is being printed in an exceptionally high resolution format. This is what makes SignSHOP truly amazing...the ability to produce near-dot matrix resolution on a standard ADAM letter quality printer!

If you would like to leave the SignSHOP select option 6 from the main function menu and you will be returned to SmartBASIC™.

Refer to the sample of the sign at the back of the manual for further examples.

Designing and Printing a Letterhead

The SignSHOP gives you the ability to custom design and print a letterhead for professional, business, or personal use. A letterhead consists of one or several lines of different style text, a preformatted picture or your own logo designed with the picture editor, as well as three lines of smaller type for your slogan or address.

Begin by selecting option 2 on the main function menu. SignSHOP will ask you to select a picture file option. Now follow the same instructions for designing a sign. Remember that you should allow yourself plenty of room for the body of your letter. We suggest that a small picture, and one line of style 1 text be used in addition to the three lines of normal text. After your layout has been entered, SignSHOP will ask you to enter three lines of text. These three lines, as mentioned above, will be used for your slogan or address. Enter each line and press [RETURN] at the end. After the third line of text has been entered, SignSHOP will ask you what position the normal text should be placed at. Enter R for Right, L for Left, or C for Center.

SignSHOP will then ask you if a solid dividing line should be printed. Enter Y for Yes or N for No. This line will appear directly under your letterhead.

A print quality should then be chosen, your printer loaded with paper, and finally your letterhead printed. Refer to the letterhead sample at the back of the manual for further examples.

When SignSHOP has finished printing your letterhead it will return to the main function menu.

Designing and Printing a Greeting Card

To design and print a greeting card, select option 3 from the main function menu. A greeting is a shorter version of a sign. Follow the instructions for making a sign. Remember, since a greeting card is smaller you will have less lines to work with.

A greeting card consists of two faces, the outside and the inside. Take a sheet of paper, fold it in half, open it up, and place it in the printer so that the inside fold is facing you. Now roll the paper into the printer so that the print head rests of the outside fold. You are now ready to print the outside face of the greeting card.

After the outside face has been printed, you must design the inside face. Once again follow the same instructions for making a sign. When ready, take the same sheet of paper and place it in the printer so that the outside face of the greeting card and outside fold faces you. Now roll the paper into the printer so that the print-head rests on the inside fold. You are now ready to print the inside face of your greeting card.

Once both faces have been printed you will have a completed greeting card. Refer to the back of this manual for further examples of the greeting card.

Refer to the greeting card sample at the back for further examples.

When SignSHOP has finished printing each face of your greeting card it will return to the main function menu.

Designing and Printing a Horizontal Banner

SignSHOP allows you to print letters and pictures horizontally to create banners of unlimited lengths. Banners may be used for parties, announcements, welcoming friends and relatives, and sales advertisements. In order to design and print a banner select option 4 from the main function menu. Enter the desired picture options.

If a picture was selected SignSHOP will ask you to choose a picture position. Enter 1 if you would like your picture printed before your line of text. Enter 2 if you would like your picture printed after your line of text, or 3 if you would like your picture printed both before and after your line of text.

SignSHOP will then ask you to enter the desired line of text. Enter this line and press [RETURN]. SignSHOP will then ask you to select the size of the banner. Sizes 1-7 are available. Size 1 being the smallest, and size 7 the largest. Pictures will be printed at the size that they were designed. SignSHOP will then ask you to enter the banner position. Enter L for Left, R for Right, and C for Center.

Insert your continuous sheet paper and press [RETURN] to begin printing. When SignSHOP has finished printing your banner it will return to the main function menu.

Creative Hints

We suggest that you use colored ribbons and colored paper when printing your signs, greeting cards, letterheads, and banners. This will achieve a more interesting effect.

The Picture Editor

The Picture Editor will allow you to custom design your own pictures, logos, designs, and use them in signs, letterheads, greeting cards, and banners.

In order to use the Picture Editor select option 5 from the main function menu, insert the SignSHOP program data pack, and press [RETURN]. After a few moments, the Picture Editor's main function menu will appear.

You may also run the Picture Editor by typing the following at the SmartBASIC ready prompt and pressing [RETURN] when finished:

run piceditor,d1

The main function menu will refer to the one contained in the Picture Editor. In order to create a picture for the first time select option 1 from the main function menu. The Picture Editor will then ask you to enter a name for this picture. Enter no more than ten alphabetical characters and press [RETURN]. The Picture Editor will then ask you to enter the height of the picture matrix. This figure may be 1-50. Enter the desired height and press [RETURN]. The Picture Editor will then ask you to enter the width of the picture matrix. This figure may be 1-50. Enter the desired width and press [RETURN].

The screen will then clear and a small blinking cursor will appear in the upper left hand corner. X and Y coordinate guides will also appear at the bottom of the screen.

A picture is made up of a pattern of characters called pixels. Pixels are represented by capital X's which appear on the screen. If you selected 30 for the picture width, then you may plot (place) a maximum of 30 pixels accross. If you selected 45 for the picture height, then you may plot (place) a maximum of 45 pixels down.

The cursor will tell you where the next pixel will be placed in the matrix. You may move the cursor around the matrix by using the arrow keys located on the right side of your ADAM's keyboard.

You may plot a pixel at a specific position by pressing the [SPACE BAR] once. If you would like to erase a pixel that already exists, place the cursor at the desired position and press the [SPACE BAR] again. The [SPACE BAR] works like a light switch. Press it once to plot a pixel, and press it again to erase a pixel.

When you have finished designing your picture press SmartKEY™ III to return to the main function menu.

You may save your picture to a data pack by selecting option 5. Or save your picture to disk by selecting option 6 from the main function menu.

If you would like to return to the editing matrix at any time a picture file is in memory, select option 4 from the main function menu.

If you would like to load a previously created or unfinished picture from data pack into the editor select option 2 from the main function menu. The screen will clear, and The Picture Editor will display the contents of the desired media, and ask you to enter a picture file name. Enter the desired name and press [RETURN]. The screen will clear while The Picture Editor loads the correct picture file into memory. You will then be asked to wait a moment while The Picture Editor creates the editing matrix. You may load a picture into memory from disk by selecting option 3 and following the same instructions.

We suggest that you load and look at the picture files included with the SignSHOP program data pack. These will give you some idea of how the editor works.

Your pictures will be printed by the SignSHOP in a high resolution mode, so they will look slightly different from the editor screen. You may print a rough draft of your picture while in the editor, by pressing SmartKEY III.

We suggest that you work from the center of the matrix so that your picture will appear centered when it is printed. For example if the picture width is 30 and the height is 30, start plotting outward from X coordinate 15 and Y coordinate 15.
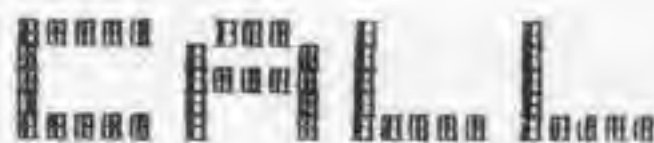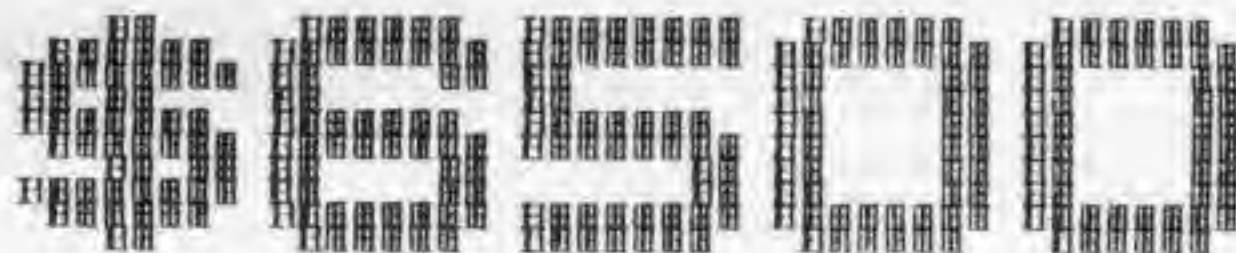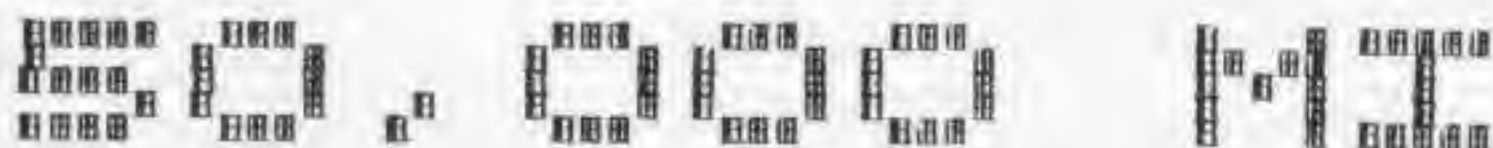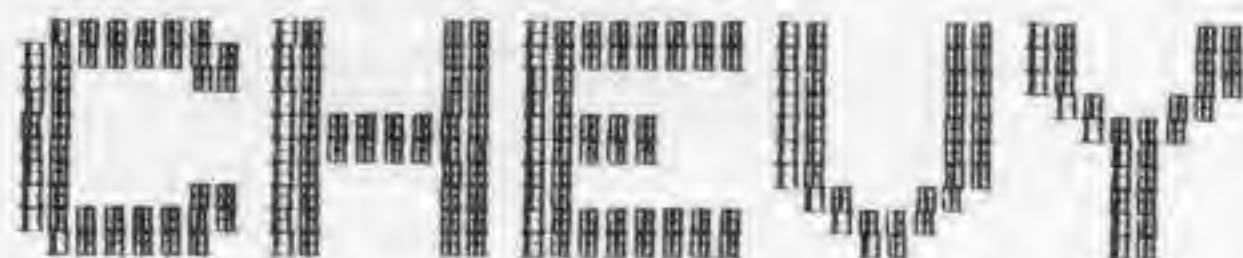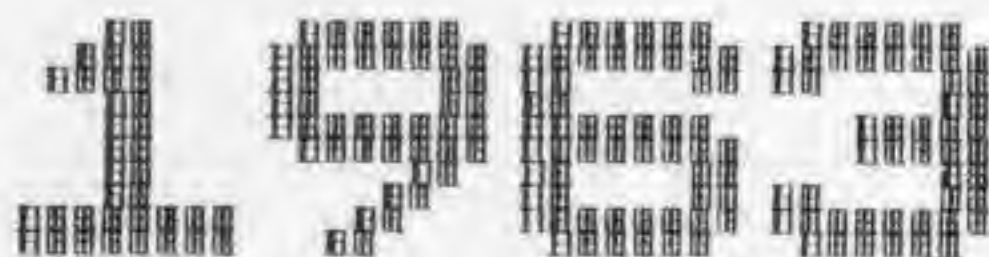
You may leave The Picture Editor by selecting option 7 from the main function menu. You will then be returned to SmartBASIC™.

Examples

The following line formatting commands were used to create the sample
sign on the next page:

```
L:1 F:T S:2 P:C |FOR SALE
L:2 F:T S:2 P:C |1963
L:3 F:T S:2 P:C |CHEVY
L:4 F:T S:1 P:C |50,000 MI
L:5 F:T S:1 P:C |AM/FM RADIO
L:6 F:T S:1 P:C |WHITE WALLS
L:7 F:T S:2 P:C |$6500
L:8 F:T S:1 P:C |CALL
L:9 F:T S:2 P:C |897-5151
```

Look at and study the examples on the next few pages, they will give you
some idea of how the SignSHOP works.

FOR SALE
1963
CHEVY
50,000 MI
AM/FM RADIO
WHITE WALLS
$6500
CALL
FOR-SALE

METROBOT

CORPORATION

86 MAIN STREET - ROBOTVILLE, NJ 94753 - (201) 983-4524

BE MY

VALENTINE

Other Quality Strategic Software Products Available for your ADAM Family Computer System.

ProofREADER Spell checking, typographical error detection, and correction system for SmartWRITER, MultiWRITE, and ASCII document files. ProofREADER is a high-speed, 100% machine language, auto-loading spelling checker, which has been specifically designed for the ADAM. ProofREADER comes with a dictionary file that contains more than 5000 of the most commonly used written words. By scanning this electronic dictionary, ProofREADER has the ability to locate misspelled words or typographical errors that are found within your SmartWRITER, MultiWRITE, or ASCII document files. If your writing vocabulary is larger than this, don't worry because ProofREADER allows you to create your own customized dictionary files, containing several thousand more words. ProofREADER is extremely easy to use. Simply run your document file through ProofREADER, then sit back and let the program do the rest. When ProofREADER finds a questionable word, it will display it on the screen along with several, correctly spelled alternate suggestions. You may replace the questionable word with your own entry or with any one of ProofREADER's suggestions.

SignSHOP Turn your ADAM into a complete printing center with SignSHOP! SignSHOP will allow you to custom design and print beautiful signs, notices, fliers, posters, announcements, invitations, greeting cards, letterheads, and large-size banners. SignSHOP offers variable positioning commands, two type styles, 7 different banner sizes, and two print qualities. SignSHOP allows you to integrate pictures with anything that you design. Ten pre-formatted picture files are included with the SignSHOP program. These consist of religious, holiday, and general symbols, as well as a variety of others for many different occasions. In addition, hundreds of others are available commercially, within the public domain, or through user groups. Or, if you would like, you may design your own with SignSHOP's powerful picture editor, provided at no extra charge. An exclusive programming routine, designed by the engineers at Strategic Software, allows SignSHOP to produce stunning, near-DOT MATRIX resolution, on your standard ADAM printer. You will be utterly amazed with the results!

MultiWRITE A professional word processing system, providing a 64 column display capability. MultiWRITE is the first, the only, and perhaps the last professional word processor that has been developed for the ADAM. MultiWRITE was modeled after word processors available for the IBM PC, Apple II, and CP/M computers. Not only does MultiWRITE include professional word processing features, it also provides a true 64 column display screen, without the need to purchase an expensive 80 column hardware board. The MultiWRITE software uses your standard ADAM hardware to produce the new display screen. MultiWRITE has the ability to convert your existing SmartWRITER files to MultiWRITE format. Your hours of work with SmartWRITER will not go to waste. MultiWRITE's on screen features include line centering, variable tab positioning, variable margin settings, paragraph formatting, word-wrap, horizontal scrolling, underlining, move & copy, word search, vertical position counter, and much more. Other MultiWRITE features include auto page numbering, right justification, mid-line insertion, forced page breaks, and variable line spacing. MultiWRITE is extremely easy to operate, single key presses are all you need to remember.

Product list continued...

PaintMASTER   Now you can have the ability to create complex high-resolution graphic designs on your ADAM Family Computer quickly and easily. PaintMASTER brings out the true potential of your ADAM and may be considered more powerful than other graphic design software costing five times as much. With PaintMASTER you will be able to create sophisticated drawings, colorful presentations, and high-definition designs using an elaborate set of tools that any artist would envy. A totally unique program, PaintMASTER is commanded by as series of icon-driven representations, just like the Mac™. There are no commands to remember or type-in, a simple point-and-click is all it takes! PaintMASTER's features include twenty variable brush sizes and styles, a complete 16 color palette that controls both foreground and background, auto circle, triangle, polygon, and straight line formatting, as well as variable border and line thicknesses. PaintMASTER can also mix test, of any color, and your hi-res images on the same screen. PaintMASTER also has the ability to move and copy selected area of your drawing.

TurboLOAD   Load your programs as much as 10 times faster with TurboLOAD! No longer will you have to wait several minutes while your ADAM loads your favorite program into memory. With TurboLOAD, you can do it in seconds! Simply convert any SmartBASIC program to our exclusive TurboCharged format, then sit back and watch your program load at tremendous speeds. Your original program file will not be affected in any way. TurboLOAD will increase the performance of your disk or digital data drive by as much as 1000%. In addition, your digital data drives will now approach disk drive speeds. For those who already own disk drives, you can expect even faster results. Also included are two handy utility programs for your convenience. The File Organizer will allow you to manage and keep track of all your program files with just a few simple key strokes. For example, you can edit, delete, or rename one or many files, change the volume heading, restore deleted files, or change the foreground and background screen colors. The File Index will allow you to print out a detailed, alphabetized report of all your program files, and what disks or data packs they are contained on. With all of these features, TurboLOAD should be in every ADAM owners library!

MicroWORKS   A complete and fully integrated home/business productivity system. Contains 5 modules that work together: Text editor, data base, spreadsheet, pictureeditor, and business graphics. MicroWORKS was modeled after other best-selling integrated programs like Lotus 1-2-3 for the IBM PC, and AppleWorks for the Apple II. The MicroWORKS system allows you to move data between each module very easily. Now you can produce more meaningful documents that contain lists, columns of number, graphs, and pictures right where you want them in the text. There are no commands to remember, each module operates the same way and displays all of its functions on the screen. The MicroWORKS modules include: ● MicroWRITE a text editor that includes on-screen centering, variable tab and margin positioning, horizontal scrolling, mid-line insertion and deletion, forced page breaks, underlining, mail merge, chain printing, and much more! With MicroWRITE you can create memos, reports and form letters. ● MicroFILE the data base includes customized record layouts, 24 characters per field, columnar reports, mailing labels, and statistical functions. Search for groups of records by any field. Edit, delete, or sort records at the touch of a button. MicroFILE can keep track of clients, mailing lists, and inventories, etc. ● MicroCALC the spreadsheet, includes 750 storage cells, sum & avg functions, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, powers, dec point position, auto formula building, rel and abs values, variable column widths, MultiPlan formula compatibility. With MicroCALC, you can devise budgets, project profits instantly, keep track of expenses and investments. ● MicroEDIT the picture editor allows you to create designs and illustrations for use in MicroWRITE documents. Since its SignSHOP compatible, you can use your own SignSHOP files or some of the hundreds of others that are available. ● MicroGRAPH the business graphics generator allows you to graph your spreadsheet and data base data in any one of three different formats. You may choose from a bar line, or pie chart. Switch between charts without reloading data. Add your own titles for presentations. Save bar graphs and integrate them with MicroWRITE documents. MicroGRAPH makes the most complex figures easier to understand. MicroWORKS loads in seconds due to our exclusive TurboCharged format. MicroWORKS may be the single, most useful product that you can own.